



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Selectmen's Minutes 10-20-2008**

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON  
 BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, October 20, 2008  
**7:15 p.m.**

Present: Ms. Rowe, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair and Mrs. Mahon

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Krepelka

Absent: Ms. LaCourt and Mr. Greeley

### **FOR APPROVAL**

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)

- a. Minutes of Meeting: October 6, 2008
- b. Request: One Day All Alcohol License, 11/8/08

Barry Russell, Friends of Robbins Farm Park

- c. Contractor/Drain Layer License

Jason Anthony Corp., 671R Concord Avenue, Cambridge, MA

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

2. National Grid Delivery Petition/Dickson Avenue

Harold R. Cooper

(all abutters notified)

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

National Grid Delivery Petition/Laurel Street

Harold R. Cooper

(all abutters notified)

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

### **7:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING**

3. For Approval: Board of Survey

Cutter Hill Place/Lillian Lane

The Lillian A. Davidson Revocable Trust intends to develop the property located at #109 Cutter Hill Road. The subject property is located on the block bounded by Cutter Hill Road, Ridge Street, Edgehill Road and Richfield Road.

The Board thanked Attorney Carl Toumayan for submitting a detailed report and a more conventional layout of the lots. Adequate frontage is provided for all four lots with frontage on Lillian Lane and for one lot on Edgehill Road. Attorney Toumayan stated a Stormwater Report was submitted to the Town Engineer that demonstrates conformance with the Town's stormwater by law. The Board of Survey Plan shows retaining walls along the project perimeter that will mitigate the significant change in elevation at those locations: those walls will be designed to suit the specific house selected for each lot.

Ms. Judith Kocur, 24 Ridge Street, a direct abutter, asked Attorney Toumayan if the original Davidson house would be demolished

and he stated that it would be.

The Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Survey, voted to approve Lillian Lane.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

### **LICENSES & PERMITS**

4. **Request: Permit for Veterans' Day Parade, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

William F. McCarthy, Director of Veterans' Services

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

5. **Request: Food Vendor License**

Agnes & John Biagioni, d/b/a Johnny's "Candy Corner", 1193A Massachusetts Av

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

6. **Request: Common Victualler License**

Chetan Kothari, Chetak, LLC. d/b/a Quizno's Sub, 669 Massachusetts Avenue

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

7. **Request: Second Hand Dealer License**

Vahe Missak Kantarjian, d/b/a Infinity Creations, 180 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 101A

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

8. **CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

### **TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS**

9. **Request: Summer Street Park to be named 'The Arlington Veterans' Memorial Sports Complex'**

William F. McCarthy, Director of Veterans' Services

On behalf of The Combined Veterans' Council of Arlington, Mr. McCarthy requested that the Summer Street Park be named "The Arlington Veterans' Memorial Sports Complex". The complex would include the baseball field, the playground area, the basketball courts, the Veterans' Memorial Skating Rink, Buck Field and the soccer field.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

10. **Request: On Street Overnight Parking @ 181 Newport Street**

Oliver and Catherine Freudenreich

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

11. **Discussion: Fuel Assistance Program**

Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

The local fuel assistance fund is managed by the Board of Health. The Board of Youth Services decides on policy for the fund and how funding is to be given out. The current policy is to require residents to first apply for federal funds prior to accessing the local funds. Residents that fall within the 200% of the federal poverty level according to HUD can qualify. We require that federal assistance be accessed first because it is our way of streamlining applications and having the background on income, resident status and number in household already reviewed at the federal level. Each year there are emergency cases which are referred by the Council on Aging Social Worker, Veteran's Agent, School Department or AYCC Social Workers. The emergency cases are typically paid right away if the client is working with a town HHS staff person.

In 2007 there were 67 Arlington families that received fuel assistance from the local fund. The Board of Health anticipates this number to increase for the upcoming heating season as more residents may have lost employment and as costs for home heating increase and residents look for alternate ways to pay to heat their homes. The Board of Health estimates that 80-100 families may access the local funds this year which could cost the fund between \$32,000-\$40,000 for 2008-2009. There is currently \$52,000 in the account and we hope to run another fundraiser at the beginning of the 2009 heating season.

The department has brought together all agencies that allocate funds and or work with clients that receive funds to develop a comprehensive approach to stretch funding out to reach as many Arlington residents as possible. For example, the department partnered with Arlmont Fuel to receive the lowest rate possible on oil and heating system maintenance. Additionally, the Weatherization Department has played a larger role in weatherizing homes of clients to make their homes more energy efficient. The department is also able to tap into the various trust funds for residents that qualify to install new water heaters or heating systems as funding allows and when necessary to help with old systems that are out of efficiency compliance.

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of report.

SO VOTED (3-0)

12. For Approval: Adoption of Coalition Bargaining for GIC

Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Mr. Sullivan stated that he has been meeting with the employee unions to explore the pros and cons of joining the State's GIC. The Town's consultant has been working with the unions' consultant to analyze the costs and benefits of joining the GIC.

One thing the employee group has expressed is an interest in formalizing the process at this point. That would involve establishing a formal Public Employee Committee (PEC) to negotiate over this issue. Essentially we would be adopting coalition bargaining to attempt to negotiate an agreement to join GIC. If no agreement is reached then the vote on coalition bargaining is negated.

Our current process is intended to be a fact-finding process (or interest based bargaining) to determine whether there are any actual benefits to joining the GIC. To date some communities have found that it would be beneficial and some found that there would be no savings. For us we are attempting to gather the facts together in a collaborative process. If it were determined that there are benefits to joining. The Manager would then propose that the Board adopt the formal coalition bargaining process to negotiate the terms of joining the GIC.

The Unions, however, would prefer to continue the fact-finding process through a formal coalition bargaining process. While Mr. Sullivan believes it makes more sense to complete the fact-finding process first to determine whether there are any benefits to joining the GIC, he certainly has no objection to having the Board vote the more formal process at this time.

Mr. Sullivan stated that as a point of information, the Governor has extended the deadline for joining the GIC until December 1, 2008. While it is unlikely that we can meet the deadline for this year given where we are in the process and the complicated nature of the process, we will work with the Unions to at least attempt to reach a decision and agreement by then.

The Board of Selectmen voted the following:

*The Board of Selectmen accept M.G.L. c. 32B, section 19 (as amended) for the purpose of transferring all subscribers for whom the Town provides health insurance to the Group Insurance Commission pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32B, section 19 (e).*

*And further, to authorize the Town Manager to: notice forthwith the initial meeting of a Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. c. 32, section 19 (e); bargain with such Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. c. 32B, section 19 (e); enter into an agreement with such Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. c. 32B, section 19 (e); and take all such other steps as are reasonably related to the transfer of all subscribers into the Group Insurance Commission.*

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

Mr. Joseph Rosselli appeared before the Board and stated that John McCaffery, President, Firefighters Association would like to meet with the Board before a final vote is taken.

Ms. Rowe assured Mr. Rosselli that the Board was only taking a vote to form a Committee and was not voting the GIC.

13. Report: Impacts of Economic Crisis and Question 1

Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Mr. Sullivan informed the Board the Governor has proposed significant cuts to the state budget to respond to the current global economic crisis. In order to plug an estimated \$ 1.4 billion shortfall, the Governor has proposed the following:

- \$ 1 billion in budget reductions
- \$ 168 million by closing the telecommunications tax loophole
- \$ 200 million additional draw down from reserves

The budget earmarks for all communities, including Arlington were cut significantly. Arlington's were cut as follows:

	<u>Original</u>	<u>9c Cut</u>	<u>Balance</u>
School zone safety improvements	100,000	(100,000)	0
Transportation Improvements			
(Summer Street)	100,000	(100,000)	0
AYCC	145,000	(72,500)	72,500
Youth Health & Safety Coalition	100,000	0	100,000

Regional project of benefit to Arlington

Amelia Earhart Dam study 140,000 (140,000) 0

Other agency cuts which have a direct impact on Arlington including the following:

- Sped Circuit Breaker Reimbursement – reduced from 75% to 72% equals \$70,000.
- Metco – reduced \$ 1,900.
- Community Policing Grants, cut 25% - estimated at \$ 20,000.

At this time no 9C mid year cuts have been proposed to local aid. Future cuts cannot be ruled out, however, as it is likely that the State's shortfall will grow. The Manager can foresee the potential for another \$1 billion shortfall.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he has implemented a hiring freeze for all non-essential positions. Even before the current crises blew open a month ago, he had asked all departments to prepare their FY2010 budgets showing both level funding and a 5% reduction. Mr. Sullivan may revise that in the coming months to 10%. At this point he believes we have to prepare for a reduction in FY2010 in local aid and motor vehicle excise tax revenue, two of our largest resources of revenue after the property tax.

In anticipation of reduced local revenues in the current year (FY2009) from such sources as motor vehicle excise taxes, building permit fees, and others, in addition to the hiring freeze, he has asked all departments to eliminate all non-essential purchases.

Mr. Sullivan estimated the \$16 million the town received from the state would drop to \$2 million. Mr. Sullivan also stated without State Aid the Town would have to lose all of its non-mandated programs which include closing the libraries, eliminating trash collections or start charging for trash removal.

Mrs. Mahon asked Mr. Sullivan to send his report to Joseph A. Curro, member of the School Committee, and ask him to forward to all members of the School Committee stating this is where we are and we could use this report as a talking point.

Mr. Hurd thanked Mr. Sullivan for his report and also thanked William Brownberger for his detailed memo.

Mrs. Mahon thanked Mr. Sullivan for his report and expressed her concerns regarding fees because as we all know, fees are not deductible and wondered what we can give back. Mrs. Mahon stated that the cuts will be devastating.

Ms. Rowe also thanked Mr. Sullivan for an excellent report and asked him to have the report posted on the Town's website.

### Correspondence Received

Alexander J. Salipante Response to Napolitano Family Memorial Be Rec'd

Chair, Public Memorials  
Committee

Joey Glushko      Follow up Spy Pond Walk of August 15, 2008      Be Rec'd  
Planning Dept.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt.      SO VOTED (3-0)

### New Business

Mr. Sullivan made reference to his memo regarding the health insurance opt-out Program. The current opt out program offers an individual subscriber \$1,000 annually and a family subscriber \$2,000 annually. It is Mr. Sullivan's intention to increase the amounts under this program, effective January 1, 2009, in an effort to encourage greater participation by the employees. The new amounts will be \$2,000 for an individual subscriber and \$4,000 for a family subscriber.

Mrs. Mahon reported that at the last School Committee meeting, October 14<sup>th</sup>, it was stated Superintendent Bodie was not making legal decisions regarding the Coughlin/Bouris case and that she was looking for guidance from the School Committee. Ms. Mahon cited that under State Statute and Town Bylaws, it was her belief that only the Superintendent can make such decisions and the elected body is precluded from decisions regarding school personnel issues under Education Reform, unless it directly concerns the Superintendent.

Mrs. Mahon would like a joint meeting with the Redevelopment Board on November 17<sup>th</sup> regarding the CVS application and at a future date have a discussion with the Town Manager on what items we can cut in the Budgets.

Mrs. Mahon at a future date would like to have a discussion regarding health insurance coverage for elected officials with possibly providing a grandfather provision.

Mrs. Mahon would like to attend the next meeting of the Conservation Commission in November. It is her understanding that the meeting will be about the Mill Brook /Cooke's Hollow area and she would like to know what funding is available.

Mr. Hurd has been talking with CVS representatives regarding their application to construct a CVS store at 821-837 Mass. Avenue. They are not interested in partnering with any one else at this time. Mr. Hurd stated that he would like the CVS proposal to include a wellness center and will continue to communicate with CVS officials and town officials. If CVS agrees to a Wellness Center Mr. Hurd feels we could use the \$1million dollars that was allocated for a Wellness Center at Symmes. Mr. Hurd feels that this may be an opportunity to look at the whole area.

Mr. Hurd stated that a second public meeting for the Mass. Avenue Corridor Project will be held Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting is to inform residents about the project, listen to concerns and solicit ideas of what people would like to see. The focus is on the section from Pond Lane to the Cambridge line.

Mr. Hurd thanked Chief Ryan and the Police Department for setting residents minds at ease after several housebreaks in the neighborhood. Mr. Hurd and several neighbors met at Police Headquarters with Lt. Thomas Diozzi who gave a brief synopsis of crime trends in the area and several recommendations to enhance their safety.

Mr. Hurd also stated he wanted to dismiss a rumor regarding CDBG funding. The CDBG funds are not being eliminated.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.      SO VOTED (3-0)

A True Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka  
Board Administrator

